

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of each claim that has been introduced in the above-referenced application is identified in the ensuing listing of the claims. This listing of the claims replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

1. (Currently amended) A dicing saw blade retention assembly, comprising:
a shaped flange including a substantially radially extending support member ~~that extends~~
~~substantially radially~~ and a substantially axially extending spacer member ~~that extends~~
~~substantially axially~~ for spacing an adjacent radially extending surface of ~~said~~the support
member a fixed distance apart from an axially adjacent ~~member~~element;
a retention element positioned on ~~said~~the spacer member of the shaped flange;
a dicing saw blade positioned on ~~said~~the spacer member of the shaped flange, between ~~said~~the
support member of the shaped flange and ~~said~~the retention element; and
at least one biasing element located adjacent ~~said~~the retention element, opposite ~~said~~the dicing
saw blade to bias ~~said~~the retention element against ~~said~~the dicing saw blade.

2. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1,
wherein ~~said~~the axially adjacent member comprises an axial spacer.

3. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 2, further
comprising:
at least one additional shaped flange positioned axially adjacent to ~~said~~the axial spacer, opposite
~~said~~the shaped flange;
at least one additional retention member positioned on a spacer member of ~~said~~the at least one
additional shaped flange;
at least one additional saw blade positioned between ~~said~~the at least one additional retention
member and a support member of ~~said~~the at least one additional shaped flange; and

at least another biasing element located adjacent ~~said~~the at least one additional retention element, opposite ~~said~~the at least one additional saw blade to bias ~~said~~the at least one additional retention member against ~~said~~the at least one additional saw blade.

4. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the axially adjacent member comprises another shaped flange.

5. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, wherein ~~said~~the shaped flange and ~~said~~the another shaped flange are oriented in opposite directions.

6. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, further comprising:
another retention element positioned on a spacer member of ~~said~~the another shaped flange;
another dicing saw blade positioned between ~~said~~the another retention element and a support member of ~~said~~the another shaped flange, ~~said~~the at least one biasing element being positioned between ~~said~~the retention element and ~~said~~the another retention element to bias ~~said~~the retention element against ~~said~~the dicing saw blade and ~~said~~the another retention element against ~~said~~the another dicing saw blade.

7. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 4, wherein ~~said~~the shaped flange and ~~said~~the another shaped flange are oriented in the same direction.

8. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 7, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element is positioned between a support member of ~~said~~the another shaped flange and ~~said~~the retention element.

9. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 8, further comprising:

another axially adjacent member positioned adjacent to a spacer member of ~~said~~the another shaped flange;

another retention element positioned on ~~said~~the spacer member of ~~said~~the another shaped flange;

another dicing saw blade positioned between ~~said~~the another retention element and ~~said~~the support member of ~~said~~the another shaped flange; and

at least one other biasing element positioned between ~~said~~the another axially adjacent member and ~~said~~the another retention element, opposite ~~said~~the another dicing saw blade to bias ~~said~~the another retention element against ~~said~~the another dicing saw blade.

10. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein an aperture formed centrally through ~~said~~the retention element receives ~~said~~the spacer member of ~~said~~the shaped flange.

11. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element comprises a compressible, resilient structure.

12. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element comprises an o-ring.

13. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element comprises a spring.

14. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 11, comprising a plurality of biasing elements arranged radially relative to ~~said~~the retention element.

15. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a retention feature on at least one of ~~said~~the retention element and a surface of ~~said~~the support member of ~~said~~the shaped flange located opposite ~~said~~the spacer member thereof.

16. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 15, wherein ~~said~~the retention feature comprises at least one recess configured to receive at least a portion of ~~said~~the at least one biasing element and to facilitate compression thereof.

17. (Currently amended) The dicing saw blade retention assembly of claim 16, wherein ~~said~~the at least one recess is configured to limit compression of ~~said~~the at least one biasing element.

18. (Currently amended) A ganged dicing saw, comprising:
at least two shaped flanges, each shaped flange including a support member that extends substantially radially and a spacer member that extends substantially axially for at least partially spacing an adjacent radially extending surface of ~~said~~the support member of one of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges a fixed distance apart from a corresponding radially extending surface of ~~said~~the support member of another of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges;
at least two retention elements, each retention element positioned on ~~said~~the spacer member of a corresponding shaped flange of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges;
at least two dicing saw blades, each saw blade positioned on ~~said~~the spacer member of one of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges, between ~~said~~the support member and ~~said~~the retention element of ~~said~~the corresponding shaped flange; and
at least one biasing element located adjacent at least one retention element of ~~said~~the at least two retention elements, opposite one dicing saw blade of ~~said~~the at least two dicing saw blades to bias ~~said~~the at least one retention element against ~~said~~the one dicing saw blade.

19. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, further comprising:

an axial spacer positioned axially between ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges.

20. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges are oriented in opposite directions.

21. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 20, wherein ~~said~~the spacer members of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges extend toward one another.

22. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 21, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element is positioned between adjacent ones of ~~said~~the at least two retention elements.

23. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges are oriented in the same direction.

24. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 23, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element is positioned between a support member of one of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges and a retention element that corresponds to another of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges.

25. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein an aperture formed centrally through each of ~~said~~the at least two retention elements receives ~~said~~the spacer members of ~~said~~the corresponding shaped flange.

26. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element comprises a compressible, resilient structure.

27. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element comprises an o-ring.

28. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, wherein ~~said~~the at least one biasing element comprises a spring.

B 29. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 26, comprising a plurality of biasing elements arranged radially relative to each of ~~said~~the at least two retention elements.

30. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 18, further comprising retention features on at least one of ~~said~~the at least two retention elements and a surface of ~~said~~the support members of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges located opposite ~~said~~the spacer members thereof.

31. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 30, wherein ~~said~~the retention features each comprise at least one recess configured to receive at least a portion of ~~said~~the at least one biasing element and to facilitate compression thereof.

32. (Currently amended) The ganged dicing saw of claim 31, wherein ~~said~~the at least one recess is configured to limit compression of ~~said~~the at least one biasing element.

33. (Currently amended) A method for fixing distances between ganged saw blades, comprising:

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assembling at least two shaped flanges onto a spindle of a ganged dicing saw, each shaped flange including a spacer member that extends substantially axially relative to ~~said~~the spindle and a support member that extends substantially radially relative to ~~said~~the spindle; placing a dicing saw blade onto ~~said~~the spacer member of each shaped flange; placing a retaining element onto ~~said~~the spacer member of each shaped flange, ~~said~~the dicing saw blade being positioned between ~~said~~the retaining element and ~~said~~the spacer member; positioning at least one biasing element adjacent at least one retaining element, opposite a corresponding dicing saw blade; forcing ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges axially toward one another along ~~said~~the spindle, a distance between support members of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges being at least partially defined by ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges, ~~said~~the forcing at least partially compressing ~~said~~the at least one biasing element to bias ~~said~~the at least one retaining element against ~~said~~the corresponding dicing saw blade and securing ~~said~~the corresponding dicing saw blade between ~~said~~the at least one retaining element and ~~said~~the corresponding dicing saw blade; and securing at least ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges into position along ~~said~~the spindle.

34. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein ~~said~~ assembling comprises assembling ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges in opposite orientations.

35. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 34, wherein ~~said~~ assembling comprises assembling ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges in opposite orientations with ~~said~~the spacer members facing one another.

36. (Withdrawn and currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein ~~said~~ positioning comprises positioning ~~said~~the at least one biasing element between retaining elements on spacer members of ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein ~~said~~ assembling comprises assembling ~~said~~the at least two shaped flanges in the same orientation.
